

Vermont Payment for Ecosystem Services and Soil Health Working Group

Responses to follow-up questions from California Healthy Soils Program (February 2, 2022)

1. Q. *If a farmer utilizes a NRCS program like EQIP, will the state cover the cost-share portion of that practice so that the total cost to the farmer is \$0?*

- A. It's really up to the farmer on how they want to cover the costs. Here are some scenarios.
- Get 50% of the practice cost from EQIP and 50% of the cost from CDFA. (They have to apply separately to both programs.)
 - Get 50% of the practice cost from EQIP and provide 50% of their own funding as a match. (No CDFA funding.)
 - Get 100% of the practice cost from CDFA. (No USDA funding.)
 - Get 50% of the practice for one Assessor's Parcel Number (APN) (e.g., field) from USDA and get 100% of the same practice for another APN (e.g., field) on the same farm.

2. Q. *If a farmer is eligible for EQIP for a practice, but decides to do it with the state program only, does the state cover the full cost of that practice?*

- A. That is correct. We cover 100% of the USDA EQIP cost for the management practice.

3. Q. *How do you ensure farmers do not "double-dip" and thus get paid by two different payors for the same thing?*

- A. First, we state it in our Request for Grant Applications at the time of application. Next we state it in our grant agreements with the growers. We do have direct coordination with USDA NRCS California on sharing our information with them.